PART

3

Internationalism and Contemporary Global Affairs

To what extent should internationalism be pursued?

No nation-state can exist without interacting with other nation-states. The *Canadian Oxford Dictionary* defines *internationalism* as "the advocacy of a community of interests among nations."[1] Some interests of nation-states extend beyond their own borders. Some national interests are common to a community of nations, and it makes sense for nation-states to work together to address those issues. As in any community, some nations are more committed to the well-being of the community, while others use the community to pursue their own interests. There are, in other words, different forms of internationalism.

The United Nations is one example of internationalism. The first photo shows UN peacekeepers in Sierra Leone in 2005, near the end of a mission that helped to end an 11-year civil war in 2001. According to the UN Charter, the UN exists "to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations and promote social progress, better living standards and human rights."[2]

The second photo shows participants at the 2006 UN Forum on Indigenous Issues. They are working for fair and just treatment of Indigenous peoples and to provide a united voice for the over 370 million Indigenous people worldwide. Some interests of Canada's Indigenous peoples include pursuing land claims, the right to self-determination, and rights over historical artifacts and artistic expressions. In both cases, the UN is building a sense of internationalism by working toward the aims outlined in the quotation above.

1 Katherine Barber, ed. *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed. (Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press, 2004).

2 United Nations, "Questions & Answers about the United Nations," 30 June 2006. http://www.un.org/geninfo/ir.

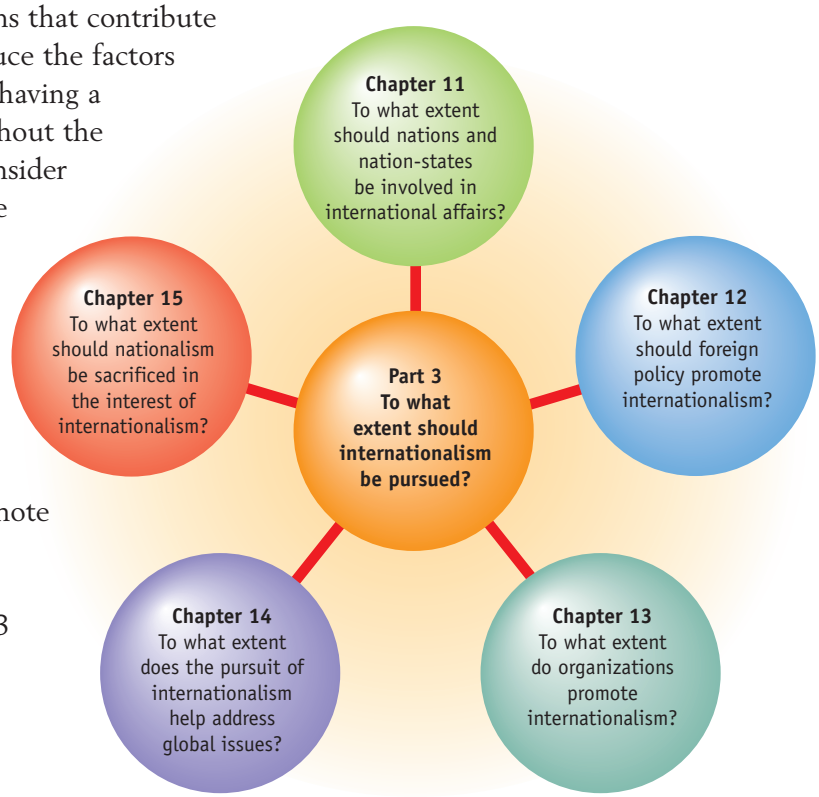
Visit the Learn Alberta site www.LearnAlberta.ca and click on the *Perspectives on Nationalism* learning object for fully interactive learning scenarios entitled ExCite (Exploring Citizenship). These scenarios related to issues and concepts in the Student Resource enhance learning.

Individuals, organizations, or governments may promote internationalism through foreign policy. In Part 3 you will explore the extent to which the pursuit of internationalism helps address global issues such as natural disasters, peace, conflicting national interests, disparity, health issues, AIDS, and international trade practices. Nation-states sometimes need to consider to what extent nationalism must be compromised in the interest of internationalism. You will explore this question by investigating various examples, including the Kyoto Protocol, an agreement to reduce emissions that contribute to greenhouse gases. The agreement aims to reduce the factors responsible for climate change—a reality that is having a considerable economic and social impact throughout the world. As part of your investigation, you will consider the significance of Canada's withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol.

Through these investigations, you will arrive at understandings that will help you appreciate the fact that nations and nation-states engage in regional and global affairs for various reasons. In Part 3 you will explore the extent to which nations may sometimes have to compromise their own national interests to promote the interests of the international community.

The Key Issue for this course asks: ***To what extent should we embrace nationalism?*** In Part 3 you will continue exploring this Key Issue by investigating the Main Issue: ***To what extent should internationalism be pursued?***

Each chapter in Part 3 explores an issue related to the Main Issue: ***To what extent should internationalism be pursued?*** The Chapter Issues allow you to analyze the impact of the pursuit of internationalism. Through this study you will develop a global consciousness of human interactions in global affairs.


Chapter 11
To what extent should nations and nation-states be involved in international affairs?
Chapter 15
To what extent should nationalism be sacrificed in the interest of internationalism?
Part 3
To what extent should internationalism be pursued?
Chapter 12
To what extent should foreign policy promote internationalism?
Chapter 14
To what extent does the pursuit of internationalism help address global issues?
Chapter 13
To what extent do organizations promote internationalism?